



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BAMBERG V CORPS SOLDIERS TO BE HONORED, WELCOMED HOME WITH DAY-LONG FESTIVITIES

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279th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

BAMBERG, Germany -- Approximately 2,000 Soldiers of V Corps' 1st Infantry

Division will be welcomed home from their yearlong deployment in Iraq in a celebration on Warner Barracks here April 28.

The welcome-home celebration will take place at Memorial Park, across from Warner Chapel.

An official welcome-home ceremony, highlighting the Soldiers' achievements, will begin at 10 a.m.

"This is an opportunity for Soldiers, family members and friends to relax and reflect upon a job well done by both the deployed units and those on the home front," said Lt. Col. Daniel Thomas, 279th Base Support Battalion commander.

The day of revelry will continue after the ceremony with food, carnival rides, top-name entertainment and fireworks.

"The ceremony requires a lot of planning, coordination and synchronization. It's important we do it right and plan the best thank-you ever for our returning Soldiers. Assistance from the 1st ID planning cell has been crucial to the successful planning operations thus far," said Maj. Douglas Krawczak, 279th BSB plans and operations officer.

Live music starts at noon with the Fab Five, a Beatles cover band, and rock and roll bands Revolver, Mosquitos, and headliner Lit.

"One of the big highlights is the band Lit from California. They should be a real crowd pleaser," said Mary Jo Lohrenz, director of community activities.

Lohrenz stressed that the welcome-home celebration will be an opportunity for community members to thank Soldiers personally for their sacrifices and celebrate their safe return.

Students can enjoy the day, too, as their classes that day at Bamberg elementary and high schools have been cancelled.

"It will be a great day of fun and entertainment -- our community can come together and enjoy," Lohrenz said.

A large tent will be erected in the parking lot adjacent to Memorial Park in front of building 7000. All vehicles in the lot must be moved so the construction process is not hindered. Parking near the chapel will still be available.

"In order to provide the best venue for our community celebration, cars should be removed from the lot by April 4 until mid-May," Krawczak said.

